From: Tom Cochran
To: Keith, Kirsten
Subject: To The Mayor: May 4, 2017
Date: Thursday, May 04, 2017 3:44:15 PM

House Healthcare Bill passes with a 217 - 213 vote.

View this email in your browser

May 4, 2017
Washington, D.C.

217- 213 Healthcare Vote – $8 Billion Got Votes But Still Less Coverage

The House Healthcare Bill finally squeaked by with a 217 - 213 vote and is headed to the Senate. It was hung up earlier this week because of concern about the lack of coverage for pre-existing conditions. At the White House earlier this week, $8 billion was put on the table to cover the pre-existing gaps in the current bill and while the $8 billion extra got the votes, it does not make certain that pre-existing conditions are covered. Further, experts indicate there will be fewer covered as compared to Obamacare.

The House bill passed today does not meet the policy requirements for repeal and replace that were agreed to by our organization as we came out of our Winter Meeting in January and since.

The bill now goes to the Senate where we will work with Democratic and Republican Senators to produce final healthcare legislation that provides healthcare for all Americans.

A number of our leadership mayors issued statements today.

FBI Director “Mildly Nauseous – Lordy, Has This Been Painful!”

FBI Director James B. Comey gave a strong defense yesterday before the Senate Judiciary Committee over his pre-election acts. The FBI Chief told the Senate panel he has no regrets for anything he did publicly prior to the presidential election last fall despite his feeling, “mildly nauseous” at the thought that his public disclosures a week before the election might have affected the outcome of the election. “Lordy, has this been painful,” he said, “I’ve gotten all kinds of rocks thrown at me and this has been really hard, but I think I’ve done the right thing at every turn.”

He said he decided to go public with his findings from the Hillary Clinton email investigation following former President Bill Clinton's meeting on an airplane with then Attorney General Loretta Lynch. "Her meeting with President Clinton on that airplane was the capper for me.”

He revealed that FBI investigators reviewing former Congressman Anthony

Weiner's computer in an unrelated case discovered thousands of emails from Hillary Clinton's Verizon Blackberry account. That finding resulted in a series of events that many, including Secretary Clinton, argue cost her the election. He alerted Congress expecting that Congress would leak the discovery.

After they found the Clinton emails, he said the FBI opened an investigation as to whether Weiner and his wife Huma Abedin, close Clinton confidant, had mishandled classified information. Comey reports that the FBI determined there was no criminal intent from either Weiner or Abedin. The statement prompted Senator Lindsey Graham (SC) to say, "somebody should be prosecuted for letting Anthony Weiner have access to classified intelligence." Comey said, "there's no Anthony Weiner statute."

At yesterday's hearing, several Senators probed Director Comey on the question of Russia's involvement in our elections. He replied, "Yes" when Senator Graham asked, "Is it fair to say the Russian government is still active in American politics?" Comey also said the investigation of the ties between the Trump campaign and Russia are still underway.

President Trump tweeted Tuesday night, "FBI Director Comey was the best thing that happened to Hillary Clinton in that he gave her a free pass for many bad deeds." Comey rebuffed President Trump's tweet and said he did not give Secretary Clinton a "free pass." White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer said later that President Trump, "has full confidence in the [FBI] Director."

The fallout from the unusual testimony caused a respected Washington Post columnist, Dana Milbank, to lead with his column, *Now We Know: Bill Clinton Cost His Wife the Presidency*, give me a break. A lot of folks think the loss was about Hillary Clinton not getting on an airplane and going to the blue wall states of Michigan and Wisconsin and instead, taking the advice of her staff in the Brooklyn headquarters.

Poor Bill Clinton, he gets blamed when inside the campaign. He and certain mayors were raising hell about the Brooklyn crowd not having a message for white male voters, many without jobs or with jobs with no pay raise since before the greatest recession we've had since the Great Depression. Don't blame it on Bill. They should have listened to one of the greatest politicians in American history – and he still is.

I’m ready for the blame game to stop, but it just keeps on coming.

Texas Legislature Approves Bill Outlawing “Sanctuary Cities”

Several weeks of emotional debate ended Wednesday when the Texas Senate endorsed House amendments to Senate Bill 4. Tough penalties for local jurisdictions that do not help enforce local immigration laws are provided in the language of the legislation. Opposition came from a wide group of organizations including police organizations who argue the police requirements will break down trust between law enforcement and some minority communities.

Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo and James McLaughlin, Executive Director of the Texas Police Chiefs Association, supported by other Texas Chiefs published an op-ed against Senate Bill 4 passage. They argue SB4, “will tear down what we've worked so hard to build up. Officers will start inquiring about the immigration status of every person they come in contact with, or worse, only inquire about the immigration status of individuals based on their appearance. This will lead to distrust of police, less cooperation from members of the community and will foster the belief that they cannot seek assistance from police for fear of being subjected to an immigration-status investigation. This is a lose-lose situation for everyone… This legislation will make our communities more dangerous for all.”

Texas Governor Greg Abbott tweeted Wednesday night, “the Texas sanctuary city ban wins final legislative approval. I’m getting my signing pen warmed up.”

---

12 Democratic Governors ask Trump to Keep USA in Paris Climate Agreement

The 2015 U.N. accord calls for the USA to reach greenhouse gas emissions between 26 and 28 percent - below 2005 levels - by 2025. These Governors are saying that the goals we agreed to in 2015 are achievable and it is in the interest of American citizens for us to reach these goals.

In a letter to President Trump, the Governors cite rising sea levels, flooding, drought, snowpack decreases, forest fires, and air pollution stating, “our states stand to bear the brunt of these climate change impacts and the economic costs running in the tens of billions of dollars or more.”

China and India are both a part of the climate agreement. Press reports indicate President Trump has not yet made a final decision about whether or not he will withdraw the USA from the signed agreement. Some members of the business community have asked President Trump to keep our nation in the 2015 agreement.

Here's a Fact.

It's Star Wars Day!
May the 4th be with you!

Tom
@tcochran_mayors

Copyright © 2017 The United States Conference of Mayors, All rights reserved.
To change your contact information, please visit https://community.usmayors.org/.

Our mailing address is:
The United States Conference of Mayors
1620 I St., N.W.
4th Floor
Washington, DC 20006

Add us to your address book

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your contact information, update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list